



STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER FOR STATE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**ON BEHALF OF
THE GROUP OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES (LLDCs)**

**DURING THE
GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 2023 HIGH- LEVEL
POLITICAL FORUM**

**17 JULY 2023
VENUE: GA HALL**

Please check against delivery

- **Your Excellency Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of ECOSOC;**
- **Your Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations;**
- **Your Excellency Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President of the General Assembly;**
- **Mr. Hoesung Lee, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);**
- **Ms. Angelique Kidjo, Goodwill Ambassador of UNICEF;**
- **Distinguished Delegates;**

1. I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).
2. The LLDCs are pleased to participate in this important Forum as it offers us a unique opportunity to highlight our efforts of achieving a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)-driven recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts are also being undertaken within the context of accelerating the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and preparing for an ambitious new programme of Action.
3. As we gather here today, LLDCs like many developing countries are striving to make progress on the attainment of SDGs by 2030 against the backdrop of multiple and

interconnected global crises, which include the devastating impact of COVID-19, climate change, food insecurity, and debt distress, amongst others.

4. These challenges add to our pre-existing geographical vulnerabilities as LLDCs and further marginalize us in the global economy. We therefore wish to take this opportunity to call for increased solidarity and support for our Countries.

Excellencies,

5. Allow me, at this juncture, to highlight our challenges and required solutions in relation to the SDGs under review during this HLPF Session.

6. For **Goal 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation;**

The LLDCs are concerned that the adverse impacts of climate change, desertification, land degradation, drought, and other disasters have a direct impact on water and sanitation in our countries due to our geographical location. We are also concerned by the notable disparities regarding water and sanitation within landlocked developing countries.

7. On **Goal 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy;**

we reiterate the importance of affordable and clean energy as a pre-requisite for all components of sustainable development. Yet LLDCs are concerned that the supply of energy has not been adequate in relation to demand. Moreover, large disparities persist between rural and urban areas.

8. Our challenges in **Goal 7** have a linkage with **Goal 9 on 'Innovation and Infrastructure'**:
Here I should note that many Landlocked Developing Countries face challenges in last-mile electrification, including a lack of project finance, and infrastructure investment.

9. The lack of progress on infrastructure and industrialization impedes the development of transport, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and energy infrastructure in Landlocked Developing Countries, underscoring the importance of intensifying the mobilisation of resources for infrastructure development for our Countries.

10. Against this backdrop, I wish to highlight some steps that should be taken to facilitate LLDCs' achievement of SDGs;
11. **First**, scaling up financing from all possible sources and investment support towards sustainable and resilient transport infrastructure in LLDCs is critical. We encourage development partners to sustain momentum in official development assistance (ODA) and direct higher levels of ODA in LLDCs to transport infrastructure. Similarly, foreign private sector investment in infrastructure is crucial as this not only contributes to addressing resource gaps, but it can also facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills.

12. There is also need for creditors and development partners to address debt sustainability issues in LLDCs in a way that facilitates sustainable transport infrastructure development. We call for a dedicated funding facility towards supporting transport, energy, ICT, water, and sanitation infrastructure development for our group of countries in order to achieve accelerated progress towards SDGs 6, 7 and 9.

13. **Second,** LLDCs need elevated levels of technical and capacity building support on many areas related to the SDGs in discussion including for example: development of bankable projects; development and implementation of effective policies, and for collection of reliable, timely and comparable data on indicators on infrastructure

development for monitoring. Towards this goal, we urge the UN system and other international organizations to play their full role by extending all possible capacity building support to our Group of Countries.

14. **Third,** I wish to reiterate the value of global partnerships, strengthening multilateral cooperation and ensuring sustainable recovery for our Group of countries, including through funding stimulus measures that take these countries' special vulnerabilities into account.

15. **In conclusion,** let me also reaffirm our unwavering support for the full implementation of the Sustainable Development by 2030. We therefore look forward to the SDG Summit this September, as another opportune moment to

leverage partnerships and accelerate momentum in preparation for the 2024 Third UN Conference on LLDCs, which will be held in Kigali, Rwanda.

16. Allow me this further opportunity to invite you all to join us for an important LLDCs thematic event on “Unlocking Connectivity Potential of LLDCS through Investment in Infrastructure Development”. It will be held this afternoon at 1:30pm, UN Conference Room A.

17. Now I will make a few remarks in my national capacity.